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HPSCI

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 13, 1986

Executive Registry
86- 0202

STAT

TO:

FROM: KENNETH deGRAFFENREID

SUBJ: Letter to the President from HPSCI Chairman and Vice Chairman

I don't know if the DCI received a copy of this letter or not. In the flurry of correspondence we received from the two oversight committees in December, this wound up on the bottom of the pile.

We will be responding to it after Admiral Poindexter sends it around to the concerned Cabinet Officers for any action they deem appropriate. This is just a heads up to you.

Attachment
a/s

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302242

ROOM H-405, U.S. CAPITOL
(202) 225-4121

# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

December 10, 1985

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

From the very first day that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence began operating, steps were taken with the unanimous agreement of the Members to work cooperatively with the Director of Central Intelligence and other responsible Executive Branch officials to ensure that all classified material coming into the Committee's possession would be handled in a secure fashion.

To that end, the Committee established a Registry which receives all classified material, controls access to that material while it is in the Committee's possession and ensures that the material is either destroyed in accordance with the DCI's standards or is returned to the originating office.

This system had worked well and, we believe, has helped develop confidence within the Executive Branch that this Committee is acting responsibly in protecting classified material. We had thought that the Committee's procedures were understood and approved by members of the Executive Branch with whom we deal.

In recent months, however, several incidents have occurred where the Committee's procedures for handling classified material have been bypassed by elements of the Executive Branch who have delivered classified documents to a Member's congressional office and turned them over to uncleared personnel or have left the classified material with a Capitol Police officer outside the Committee rooms.

These documents came from the Defense Department, the Attorney General's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, suggesting that this is a fairly widespread practice. We have no way, of course, of determining how many other Members of the House and the Senate have had classified intelligence documents delivered to their offices.

It seems to us and to the Members of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence that the interests of the Executive Branch, the House of Representatives and the American people are best served if all classified material intended for the use of this Committee and its Members be delivered to the Committee offices in Room H-405, the Capitol, where the Committee's document control system provides appropriate protection for such materials.

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We have written to you rather than to Director Casey because the problem appears to extend to departments and agencies beyond his area of authority. This Committee stands ready to assist you in any way to ensure the proper handling of classified intelligence which both branches of government need in order to carry out their respective responsibilities.

With best wishes, we are

Sincerely yours,

Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman

Bob Stump
Ranking Minority

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